

DIARY FOR THE WEEK *(Starting on Mon 22nd September)*

Mon	10am	GroW Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall
	12.45pm	GroW Babies, St John's Church Hall
	7pm	1st Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
Tue	10am	Simply Singing Group, LOWER St John's Room
	6.30pm	Wantage Chess Club, ALL St John's Rooms
	7pm	2nd Grove Guides, St John's Church Hall
	7.45pm	St John's Church PCC Meeting at Cornerstone. Grove
Wed	9.15am	St John's Toddler Group, St John's Church Hall
	2pm	Service of Memories: T/L Charles Dingwall, Philbert's Manor Barn, Hanney
	3pm	Hope Gardens Talk (Archbishop Samuel), St John's Church Hall
	3.30pm	School's PRAYER meeting, Lower St John's Room
	7pm	Cancelled: Jungle Fitness Group, St John's Church Hall
Thu	9.30am	White Horse Extend 50's+ Exercise, St John's Church Hall
	10am	Mid-week HC Service, St Nicholas' Church, East Challow
	5.30pm	1st Grove Brownies, St John's Church Hall
	8pm	ONLINE Nicene Creed Study Group
	8pm	St John's Badminton Group, St John's Church Hall
Sat	8.30am	Prayers at Frances Gillott's house, Grove
		(10.30am – 4.30pm) Michaelmas Fayre, Hanney
	2.30pm	Harvest MESSY CHURCH , St John's Church, Grove
Sun		Harvest Lunch , St John's Church Hall, Grove after service

CONTACT DETAILS

Vicar: Rev Alec Gill: 07739563894 vicaralec@valebenefice.org.uk
Associate Vicar: Rev Miriam Jones: 07474095190 vicarmiriam@valebenefice.org.uk
Licensed Lay Minister: Sarah Shackleton: 07587776609
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Benefice Office: Grove Parish Church, Main Street, Grove, OX12 7LQ
 Open: Mon–Fri. 10–12 noon. 01235 771479. office@valebenefice.org.uk

VALE BENEFICE NEWSLETTER

21st September 2025

14th Sunday after Trinity

Readings selected from:

Amos 8.4-7; Psalm 113; 1 Timothy 2.1-7; Luke 16.1-13

Paul “urges that prayers and thanks be made for everyone, including all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity.” Sunday is UN Peace Day, when churches and aid organisations have called us to pray for peace, for example with a minute's silence and this prayer from the Anglican Archbishop of Jerusalem: *“Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: In your mercy, provide for all those in Gaza and beyond who suffer from hunger and starvation, that they may be given both physical bread to nourish their bodies and heavenly bread to sustain their souls. By the power of your Spirit, bring a speedy end to this cruel war, the release of all captives, care for the sick and wounded, comfort for those who have lost loved-ones, and the opening of a pathway for a just and lasting peace here in the very homeland where your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ministered during his earthly life; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen”*

Our Shared Worship

Sunday 21st September

8am Holy Communion, St John's, Grove – Rev Alec Gill
 9.30am Parish Eucharist, St James', Hanney – Rev Geoff Maughan
 10am Holy Communion, St James', Denchworth – Rev Alec Gill
 10.15am Holy Communion, St John's, Grove – Rev Miriam Jones
 11am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas', East Challow – Rev Geoff Maughan

Upcoming Services: Sunday 28th September

8am Holy Communion, St John's, Grove – Rev Alec Gill
 9.30am Parish Eucharist, St James', Hanney – Rev Charles Draper
 10am Holy Communion **(with Baptism)**, St James', Denchworth with
 Rev Alec Gill & Rev Miriam Jones
 10.15am **HARVEST** Morning Worship, St John's, Grove – Sarah Shackleton (LLM)
 11am Parish Eucharist, St Nicholas', East Challow – Rev Alec Gill & Rev Miriam Jones

Send newsletter content to news@valebenefice.org.uk Items for newsletter inclusion will be for 2 weeks. Please send or re-send your content **by 12 noon** on Tuesdays if you wish for your notice to go into the newsletter. For specific prayer requests, please email confidentially to prayer@valebenefice.org.uk

BENEFICE NEWS

Due to ongoing building work, all information about St James Church Services is provisional. Services may be changed or cancelled at short notice. See local notices.

ONLINE NICENE CREED STUDY GROUP will meet weekly online on TEAMS starting Thursday 11th September - 16th October (8pm–9pm). See below for login details Meeting ID: [321 459 007 039 7](tel:3214590070397) and Passcode: [Wm9xp6yy](https://www.wm9xp6yy.com)

ARCHBISHOP SAMUEL FROM SOUTH INDIA This postponed visit will now take place on **Wednesday 24th SEPTEMBER, (2.30pm)** in **St John's Church Hall**. Hope Gardens is celebrating its 25th anniversary. Please do come along. Open to all. Please make this as widely known as possible. Free copies of Peter Rich's book on the 1st 15 years of this ministry are in the foyer entitled **"Caste aside by God"**.

SCHOOLS PRAYER GROUP Wednesday 24 September 2025 4-5pm at St John's Rooms, Grove - refreshments at the start, all welcome.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH HARVEST MESSY CHURCH EVENT - Saturday 27th September 2025 (2.30pm - 4.30pm). All Welcome. Fun for all the family.

ST JOHN'S GROVE HARVEST SUNDAY: 28th September. The service, led by Sarah Shackleton offers an opportunity to bring up harvest gifts during the service. All gifts received will be used to support the Wantage & Grove Food Bank. If you're not sure what would be appropriate to bring, please see the Food Bank notice in the foyer. After the service will be a **Harvest Lunch in the hall** (All Welcome). Please come along for fellowship, fun & great food (with vegetarian & Gluten Free option). To give an idea of numbers, please use the sign-up sheet in the foyer if you can come.

LETCOMBE BASSETT MICHAELMAS FAYRE Saturday 27th September, 2–5pm Join us for an afternoon of craft stalls, books, raffle, teas & cakes, plants, local produce, and children's activities — plus a church floral display and our specially brewed "Bassett Angel" Ale! All welcome. Fundraising for Letcombe Bassett Church.

ST JOHN'S GENEROSITY WEEK: 28th September – 5th October.

During our Generosity Week we ask you to prayerfully consider God's generosity to us and our giving to the church. There is currently information on the church's financial position being given out at our morning services together with details of how to give. If you are a member of St John's and not already giving regularly then we would ask you to consider whether this would be possible.

GIFT DAY on 5th October: There will be an opportunity to make a one-off gift as a thanks to God's generosity to us. More information is on the flyers at the back of the church and on the finance noticeboard in the hall. You can also contact the treasurer at grovetreasurer@valebenefice.org.uk or via the office.

SUNDAY 12th October – Card Making for the over 18's (2pm – 4.30pm). If you would like come to Sue & Emma's card making session, please sign up on the form in the Entrance Hall or email Sue at suepowditch@gmail.com or text her on 07833 503674. Sue & Emma would love someone to come & make tea/coffee etc for refreshments at 3.30pm; please contact Sue if you'd be happy to do this.

BENEFICE Baptism & Confirmation Service at St John's Church, Grove, on Sunday 19th October 2025 during the 10.15am service.

BESPACE IS HIRING! We're looking for a part-time (28 hours) Operations Coordinator to join our small Christian charity for a year. Help support schools and churches across Oxfordshire with admin, events, and communications. Remote | £22–25k pro rata | Apply by 4pm on 17 Nov | info@bespace.be for details

URGENT APPEAL FOR WANTAGE AND GROVE FOODBANK The level of demand remains high and we are always grateful for the support of all our churches.

For the first half of 2025, we have delivered 538 parcels for 1619 people including 782 children. June saw us helping 72 households of 118 adults and 100 children. We have a few months of reserves left. With rising prices of food & increasing cost of living our monetary and food donations are in a difficult position. Any food donations can be left in Church foyer (at Grove) or Sainsburys, Co-op, Waitrose or The Cornerstone. Many thanks. Jeannette Rose & D Townsend (Chair).

NO BENEFICE NEWSLETTER on 2nd October 2025 (Staff holiday)

USED STAMPS FOR DENCHWORTH CHURCH Please pass these on to Suzanne Cox at Denchworth or the Benefice Office, Grove. Raising funds for the church.

LIVE STREAM LINK – St John's Church, Grove (10.15am only)

Currently the Live Stream Link for the St John's Church, Grove 10.15am Services is emailed to the Benefice distribution list from the Benefice Office weekly. This will soon be ending, but you can still find the link/URL on the weekly Benefice newsletter. Many thanks, Andrea, The Benefice Office. The 10.15am Sunday service at St John's Church, Grove is live streamed weekly on YouTube. 📺 Watch live or later: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjvzip6GG1Tybyw58vRe9YveNSDZh92S> (This link stays the same each week.)

🔊 Auto-captioning is available and can be turned off.

📹 Camera views are wide shots; sit rear left to avoid being on camera. Contact the church office if you have any questions.

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Health and healing: Norah L, Pat B, Emmeline (Pat B's granddaughter), Khin WM, Rob S, Peter Ch, Susanne C, Wendy R, Katherine S, Laura C, Ursula G and Richard H.
Friends & families mourning: Marie Betteridge, Gina Bunting, Charles Dingwall, Linda Warren, Sue Tyser, Dorothy Lucas, Valerie Bone and Andrew Lovelock,
All living in: Brookside (Denchworth); Childrey Way (East Challow); Main Street (East Hanney); Cane Lane, Farmstead Close, Mill Lane (Grove); School Road (West Hanney)

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER:

Mon <i>St Matthew</i>	Psalms 49,147	1 Kings 19.15-end	2 Timothy 3.14-end
Tue	Psalms 5,6	1 Chronicles 13	Mark 10.1-16
Wed	Psalms 119.1-32	1 Chronicles 15.1-16.3	Mark 10.17-31
Thu	Psalms 14,15,16	1 Chronicles 17	Mark 10.32-34
Fri	Psalms 17,19	1 Chronicles 21.1-22.1	Mark 10.35-45
Sat	Psalms 20,21,23	1 Chronicles 22.2-end	Mark 10.46-end